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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

~~SECRET~~Control: 20244
Rec'd: OCTOBER 30, 1962
12:15 PM

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FROM: MOSCOW

Info

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1139, OCTOBER 30, 6 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 1139, INFORMATION USUN NIACT 28.

POLICY

DURING COURTESY CALL ON GROMYKO AT 4:00 P.. TODAY, HE INTRODUCED SUBJECT OF CUBA, SAYING THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. AGREEMENT SHOULD "CODIFY" OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH SIDES (I.E., US OBLIGATIONS TO REFRAIN FROM ATTACK ON CUBA AND TO RESCIND BLOCKADE, "WHICH YOU CALL QUARANTINE, BUT WHICH WE REGARD AS INADMISSIBLE ARBITRARY ACT IN PEACE-TIME"; SOVIET OBLIGATION TO REMOVE WEAPONS "WHICH PRESIDENT CALLED OFFENSIVE"; AND CUBAN OBLIGATIONS. AGREEMENT SHOULD STEM FROM TALKS NOW GOING ON AT UN IN NEW YORK. SOVIET GOVERNMENT EXPECTS US WILL TAKE STEPS TO BRING NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY TO SATISFACTORY END. GROMYKO SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO ENTER UPON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION THIS MATTER NOW, JUST WANTED TO MENTION IT IN PASSING.

I SAID THAT, WHILE I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT, IT WAS CLEAR US GOVERNMENT DESIRED AND INTENDED TO PROCEED AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME CRISIS. PRESIDENT REGARDS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH KHRUSHCHEV AS CONSTITUTING AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES INVOLVED, ON BASIS OF WHICH QUESTION WAS PROMPT EXECUTION OF OBLIGATIONS. SO FAR AS SPEED OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS CONCERNED, THE FASTER THE BETTER, BUT TALK SHOULD NOT DELAY ACTION.

KOHLER

JTC

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